

Re: Contacts with the Representatives of the AMTORG TRADING Corporation at the New York Toy & Trade Fair

Date: 11 March 1966

Source: AECASSOWARY/29

W.M. AMTORG Trading Corp., New York ~~for~~  
past 2 years, d.o.b. ~~1926~~ 1933

On Sunday, 6 March 1966, B. and his friend R. visited the opening of the New York Toy & Trade Fair at the Hilton Hotel. At the Soviet booth there were 2 representatives of AMTORG: SMETANKIN, H. A. and GORSKOV, O. SMETANKIN, HENRIKH A.

Above the Soviet booth was a sign V/O RAZNOEXPORT and SMETANKIN explained that RAZNOEXPORT is only one of the 33 or 35 such departments which AMTORG represents here. RAZNOEXPORT is concerned with the export of Soviet toys.

There were no Ukrainian toys on the display, and SMETANKIN explained that the only articles they have in their stock are some of the Ukrainian embroidery, woodcarvings, and some other gift articles. However, he was not sure of the contents and the prices, and asked B. to stop again, later in the week when it will be less crowded there, and he will try to bring the price list and description of the articles. He added that they are doing quite a business with some Ukrainian firm in Chicago.

Since it was an opening of the Fair there were many visitors at the Soviet booth and the conversation could not continue much longer.

SMETANKIN and GORSKOV are both about 40 years of age, and both speak English quite well. Both were dressed well and in western style. ~~XXX~~ GORSKOV is a quiet person and hardly does any talking. SMETANKIN is more talkative, is married, and has been living in the US for 2 years.

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On Thursday, 13 March 1962, B. went to the Fair again. It was about 2:30 PM. At the Soviet booth there was only GORSKOV. At first he did not recognize B., but when he did, he explained that SMETANKIN is out and will be back at 4 PM.

Since GORSKOV is very quiet and not talkative it was difficult to conduct a conversation ~~with~~ with him. However, B. managed to get from him that he is from Moscow, is working for ~~EXPORT~~ <sup>leave</sup> ~~EXPORT~~, in the US is for the first time, arrived here shortly before the opening of the Fair and will ~~shortly~~ <sup>leave</sup> shortly after, has never been in any English speaking country, learned English in Moscow, has spent some time in Chile but does not ~~at~~ speak Spanish. He also explained that each representative of ~~ITDA~~ here is representing ~~2~~ 2 or 3 departments, depending on its size and its activities, and SMETANKIN represents among other departments ~~PAZNOEXPORT~~.

Since the conversation was very forced, B. decided to leave and return at 4 PM.

At 4 PM SMETANKIN was already back. He recognized B. and explained to him that he did not have a chance to look for the price list. He stated that he is positive that they have a ~~SMETANKIN~~ "bandura" priced at 140.00. The price list and the descriptions of other articles would have to be translated into Ukrainian and he will send it to B. B. replied that it might be more ~~convenient~~ convenient if he will call on SMETANKIN at his office and in that way SMETANKIN would not have to translate the descriptions into the Ukrainian and at the same time he would be able to answer some questions in the connection with some articles if such will arise. SMETANKIN agreed and gave B. his ~~business~~ business card and added to call him in about 2 weeks.

When B. was still standing near the Soviet booth, SMETANKIN turned around and said "so, we arranged that you will call me". There was nothing else that B. could do but leave.

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